

## MEETING NOTES

**NAME OF GROUP:** Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

**DATE, TIME AND**

**PLACE OF MEETING:** Thursday, January 25, 2001, 7:30 a.m., Room 206, County-City Building, 555 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

**MEMBERS AND OTHERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Members:** Tom Laging, Jeff Searcy, and Kim Todd

**Others:** Dave Hedges, Jim Brown, and Jerry Rauch (Scottish Rite Temple); Bob Ripley and Ken Fougeron (NCEC Staff); Ed Zimmer and Missy Minner (Planning Dept.); Lynn Johnson and Jerry Shorney (Parks & Rec)

**STATED PURPOSE**

**OF THE MEETING:** Regular Meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Environs

### **Modifications to Scottish Rite Temple, 332 Centennial Mall South**

Jerry Rauch indicated that they would like to put new windows on the west side of the existing building. This would include a new window frame and 1 inch therma-pane window. It is not possible to replace the whole window because of the plaster on the inside.

Zimmer added that the building is limestone with some of the upper portion in terra cotta. The south windows were modified in the mid 80's.

Laging felt that the proposed dark frame of the windows would make them really stand out.

Rauch explained that this was the color chosen because it matches the window frames on the State Office Building. They haven't decide whether the clear or smoked glass would be better.

Zimmer asked if it was possible to insert therma-pane windows into the existing wooden sash.

Commission members asked Zimmer and Ripley to visit the site to gather additional materials to be distributed for members prior to the next meeting.

### **LB704, an act relating to the boundaries of the Capitol Environs District**

Ripley distributed a rough sketch of the proposed extension of the boundaries as indicated by the bill.

A map and memo were sent to LES approximately 6 or 7 years ago, saying to them that within the environs district, they would like to have utility poles removed and moved back 50'. There are significant trunks of wiring running over 35<sup>th</sup> Street. The Commission acknowledged the desire to remove the wires on the south side. The intent of that memo was to clean those up.

Zimmer indicated that LES contacts him when they are doing any work in the Environs area. The operations people are conscious of this.

Laging asked if the boundaries currently run down the middle of the street or if they extend to the western side of the boundary line?

Zimmer stated that zoning includes the street when it abuts a street, however streets are public property and therefore not zoned. The full width of the street could probably be considered part of the boundary. Conceptually LB704 would cause adjustments to the design standards. East & west are vista protection, not Mall protection, the design standards currently do not include anything on vista protection. There are a couple of concepts that are not dealt with in the existing design standards language.

Fougeron stated that it would be appropriate for public testimony to come from the Commissions, rather than staff.

### **Miscellaneous**

Johnson explained that the Mayor has asked that the fountains by the Children's museum and in front of the State Office Building be filled and planted.

Todd indicated that they should be left alone so that people can see that they need to be repaired or it will never be possible to get the Mall rebuilt. She prefers to have yellow tape put up. No matter what it is, if it looks better, people will say that it is good enough. It will be necessary to make sure that Parks gets no bad press about this.

Searcy agreed that any improvements will hinder funding.

Johnson will relay the Commission's suggestion to the Mayor's office.

Laging mentioned that a faculty member has done a fly through of the Mall.

Johnson added that both Osborne and Nelson have asked if something could be done at the Federal level to assist the Mall. The Mayor has recommended a Task Force be created to look at the Mall.

Zimmer suggested the NCEC Chair appoint a group of 3 to work on this in between meetings to bring information back to the Commission.

### **Commission Appointments**

Zimmer stated that three terms, one State and 2 City, have expired. Rex has expressed a willingness to either continue serving or to retire.

Searcy indicated that the Governor has reappointed him to the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33.